

Pronunciation Notes

The Chinese words and phrases included in this script are in the Cantonese dialect which is very common in the United States. It has nine tones and can be challenging to pronounce. To help your readers, please share these pronunciations. For further help, refer to the WAV file that will allow you to listen to a Cantonese speaker pronounce them. (Thanks to Tillie Lim and Eileen Tse for their invaluable help.)

Word/Phrase	Pronunciation
leisee	Say this in the “down” tone as though each syllable is the last word in a sentence.
lei	(like a Hawaiian lei) see (like the English word)
char siu bao	Say this in a “high” tone as though saying it in all one note.
cha	(as in the dance the cha-cha)
siu	(rhymes with “see you” said very quickly)
bow	(rhymes with “Ow!”)
Nay yu mat yeh ah?	Say this with the following tones: down-up, down, high, neutral, neutral
Nay	(rhymes with “say”)
yu	(rhymes with “few”)
mutt	(like a dog, NOT “mat”)
yeh	(as in the Beatles’ song, “She Loves Me, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah”)
ah	(spoken with the inflection going up since this is a question and in a rather staccato manner).